

# Terry Sutton MBE 1929–2024

**Derek Leach**

Well known Dovorian and Dover Society member, Terry Sutton, moved in January from his beloved Dover to Gloucester to live close to his daughter, Josephine. Sadly, after only a couple of weeks mainly spent in hospital, Terry died on 3rd February.



*Terry Sutton MBE*

Terry's career as a local journalist for sixty years means that there is little Terry does not know about everything and everyone in Dover, but what can be said about him? I am sure everybody has a story to tell about this cheeky chappy, but here is the official version!

Terry was born in Dover in 1929, the son of Norman Sutton, reporter and later, editor of the Dover Express. He went to Barton Road School and on the outbreak of war Terry was packed off to a safer place in Kent before joining Barton Road pupils in Wales, transferring later to the evacuated County School. With the end of shelling in 1944 the school returned to Dover with Terry proudly wearing his army cadet uniform.

1947 saw Terry called up for National Service straight from school. Demobbed in 1949 and, much against his father's wishes, Terry began his long career with the Dover Express. During his career that ended in 1994 when Terry reached sixty-five, he rose from cub reporter to chief reporter, newsroom editor, deputy editor and finally associate editor. Not having tired of reporting, Terry continued part time and then as a freelance reporter.

Despite the long hours of work and many evening attendances at council meetings, court hearings and other events, Terry contributed in so many ways to the life of the town. This included the Channel Swimming Association, which meant that Terry spent many uncomfortable hours accompanying swimmers in an open boat. When Ray Warner and others started the

annual Dover Film Festival, Terry wrote many of the scripts and also narrated. He was an early member of the League of Friends of Dover Hospital, the Dover History Society and Guide Dogs for the Blind as well as a founder director of Town Centre Management, founder trustee of St. Martin's Emmaus and a patron of the Roman Painted House. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Dover, the White Cliffs Country Tourism Association, St. Mary's Parochial Church Council and Christians Together in Dover.

Terry was a member of the New Dover Group and joined its successor, The Dover Society, when it was formed in 1988. He was an active and valued member, Chairman for three years and served on the Executive Committee as well as being the Society's press officer until 2023.

Terry's incredible contribution to journalism and to his home town was recognised; firstly in 1991 when he was appointed a Member of the British Empire and later as an Honorary Freeman of Dover in 2011. The Dover Society elected him as a Vice President. We shall miss you Mr. Dover.